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Photo: BLDG Studio



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Photo: Lillian Lane

COVER: Breathing new life into a charming Buena Vista character home was a labour of love for a first-time homeowner.

Photo by Lillian Lane.

FALL 2018 Saskatoon **HOME**

HOME Front



Photo of Amanda Soulodre by Lillian Lane

Fall is a time for change. The yard is evolving, the kids are headed back to school, and the long warm days of summer have begun to shorten. But change is natural and sometimes we must replace the old with the new. At my own family farm, I am reminded of this inevitable change as I attempt to crank up the 1966 Ford F600 grain truck, aptly named Bertha, hoping she will haul for one more year. Her replacement (an International 9200 tandem) sits in the yard, but I just hate the idea of putting Bertha fully to rest.

With this Fall issue of HOME, we celebrate the old and dazzle you with the new. Take a historical look at the Webb Block (pg. 20). Learn about the lost art of burning your garbage (pg. 56). Plus we bring you a story about local celebrity Franco and his ultimate sports basement (pg. 27) that celebrates his love of sportsmanship.

Saskatoon is home to many talented people. Read about some of our most

interesting inventors and new ideas being developed (pg. 35), read about a local home reborn with a whimsical style (pg. 10), and see what our fellow YXE'rs do to "Saskatoon" their home as we highlight local décor (pg. 60).

We also celebrate change by bringing you the story of Crossmount (pg. 42) where country folk have found a comfortable place to enjoy their golden years. But if you're not ready to move quite yet, we will show you how to spruce up that curb appeal by painting your front door (pg. 8). Hey, sometimes it's the little things.

The times they are a-changin'. Remember the past, but embrace the future. And if anyone has a brake conversion kit for a 1966 Ford grain truck, please let me know. Bertha is not done yet. 🏠

Happy reading,

AMANDA SOULODRE
OWNER & PUBLISHER

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HOME

SASKATOON

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READER PANEL

Thank you to our Fall Issue Reader Panel (seen below). The people on the Reader Panel change every issue and are made up of fans of the magazine who volunteer to help us select our stories. Their input allows us to select stories that people in and around Saskatoon look forward to reading each and every issue. Once story ideas are chosen, we then assign them to our team of talented writers—meet them online at www.saskatoon-home.ca.



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Alana McLennan

Regional Sales Manager, Airline Hotels



“Each time I read HOME
I am always interested to see
what is happening locally in
our community!

Josh Fedorowich

*Owner, Studio 2.0
Interior Design + Photography +
Construction*



“I love supporting local
businesses and learning
about our community
through this publication.

Warren Seed

*Facilities Supervisor, Entrepreneur,
Business Consultant*



“I'm thrilled to be a part of
the Reader Panel for HOME
magazine. Design, history,
stories - I think it is one of the
best magazines out there.

Katrina German

Online Business and Marketing Strategist



“Saskatoon HOME inspires
readers to create a home
filled with love and character,
a place that builds memories
and strengthens families.

Charmaine Elmgren

Marketing Manager, Norseman Structures



“I believe in supporting our
local economy as much as
possible! What I can't grow
myself I try to buy locally.

Murray Unger

*Heavy Truck Dispatcher, Custom Courier
and Beachbody Coach*

Interested in being on a future panel? Email: amanda@saskatoon-home.ca with 'Reader Panel' in the subject line.

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SHUT THE FRONT DOOR!

PAINTING A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION



AMANDA SOULODRE



LILLIAN LANE



AFTER



BEFORE



Dents, dings, blah. That is what I saw when I looked at my front door. I wanted to fix the blemishes and create a grand entrance that would put a smile on my face each time I crossed the threshold.

I went to see Ken Zurowski, owner of Eastside Paint & Wallpaper to make sure I was well prepared for the path I was about to embark upon.

What's In a Colour?

First things first, colour. I brought closeup photos showing the trouble areas.

I selected Benjamin Moore's *Dutch Tulip*, deciding to really go for it with this bold red.

With an option of gloss or satin finish, I selected satin when Ken explained that gloss has a tendency to show imperfections more readily.

Preparation is Key

I spent about equal time in prepping my door surface as I did in the five coats of painting. And I am really happy that I took the time to properly prepare, it made a world of difference in the end. The steps I followed:

1) Remove Hardware - The more you can remove, the less you have to tape around.

2) Clean - Wash your door well with TSP (Trisodium Phosphate Power). I went with the powder mix, but there was also a spray option.

3) Sand - Lightly sand any paint that looks like it may flake away, and any areas with ridges. I also used a blade to cut away seeping caulking from the edge of the mouldings to create a flat surface.

4) Repair - A few years ago we replaced our door handle.

It left a hole in the door where a screw used to sit. To repair this, Ken recommended filling the hole with a dowel glued into place and slightly inset. Then use automotive filler and cover the hole. I used a credit card to trowel the filler, and when dry lightly sanded the edges.

5) Rinse - With clean water and a clean cloth wash your door down thoroughly. Paint does not like dirt or debris.

6) Tape - This taping stage took the most time for me because of the inset glass, but it was well worth the patience. Before using the primer coat, I used a credit card to apply pressure on the tape to make sure the tape was firmly making contact with the surface. Don't forget to tape the hinges.

Finally, the Painting

Since I selected a rich red colour, Ken prepared me for what I was getting myself into. Primer coat, and four coats of *Dutch Tulip* later, this bold, saturated colour was brought to life!

I used a short handled brush around the edges, and a small foam roller on any flat surfaces.

As I painted, Ken's wise words played on a loop in my head, "Lay it on and leave it alone." Don't go back over areas you've already applied paint.

After the five coats, I removed the tape slowly, and used a blade to scrape the glass areas where the paint seeped.

Voila! A new welcome mat and my project was complete. It's amazing how paint and some elbow grease can really breathe new life into a home's first impression.

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A HOME REBORN

BEFORE AND AFTER IN BUENA VISTA

Home. It's where we live. It's where we connect to family, and where we retreat from the demands of life. Home is the one place where the story of our lives and the spaces we live in intertwine. For one young first-time homeowner, the tale

is about the rebirth of a charming 1928 two-storey nestled in the heart of Saskatoon's Buena Vista neighbourhood.

A Diamond in the Rough

This quaint 950-square foot house was brought back to

life when Arielle Piché, a clinical social worker, decided to purchase her first home.

"I had been looking for about a year. I had just turned 26 and knew I was ready to move out of my family home, but I had a rather long wish

list," Arielle says. "I knew I wanted something within walking distance of my folks, and I knew I wanted a character home. Buena Vista was the perfect location for me."

When a childhood friend called to say a For Sale sign



KRISTA MARTENS



LILLIAN LANE

went up just down the street, Arielle got in contact with her realtor.

"I just knew this was the perfect fit for me." Arielle was so confident in the house and neighbourhood that she went ahead with the purchase without

even walking through it first.

This home had made an impression.

A Labour of Love

Shortly after the purchase, Arielle started her three-month project. Her vision was ➤

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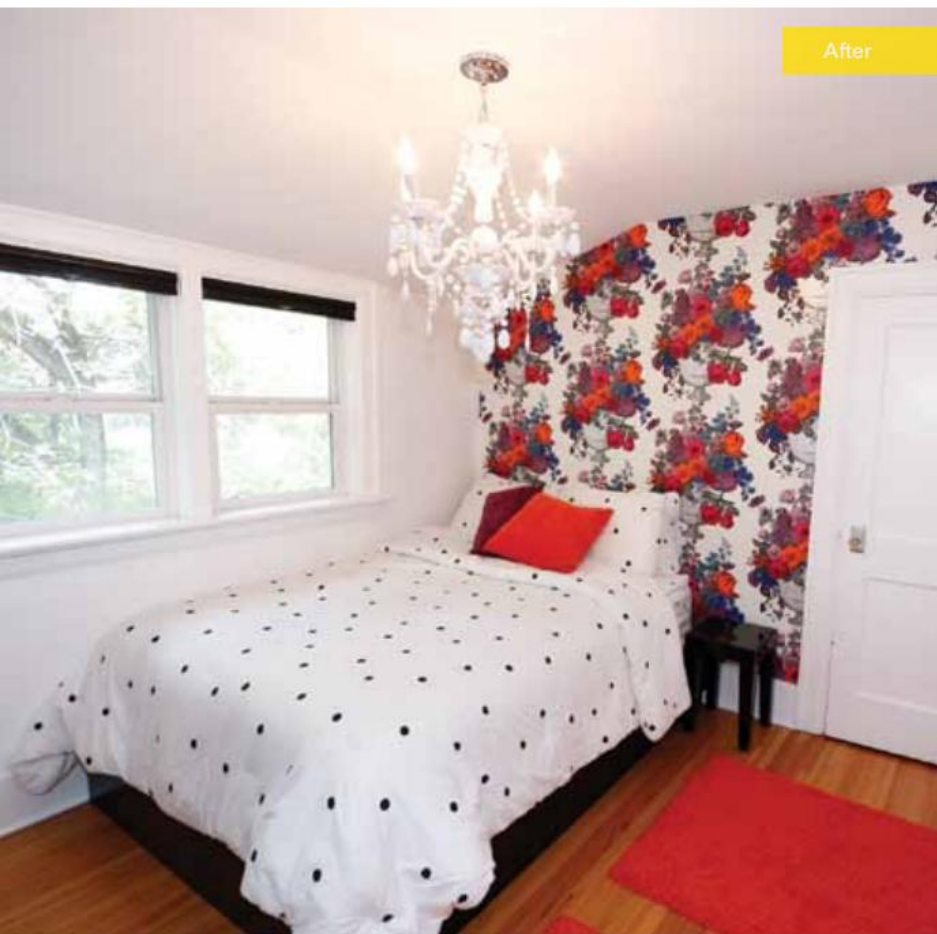
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After



Before

to infuse the space with her fun, whimsical style while maintaining the house's historical character.

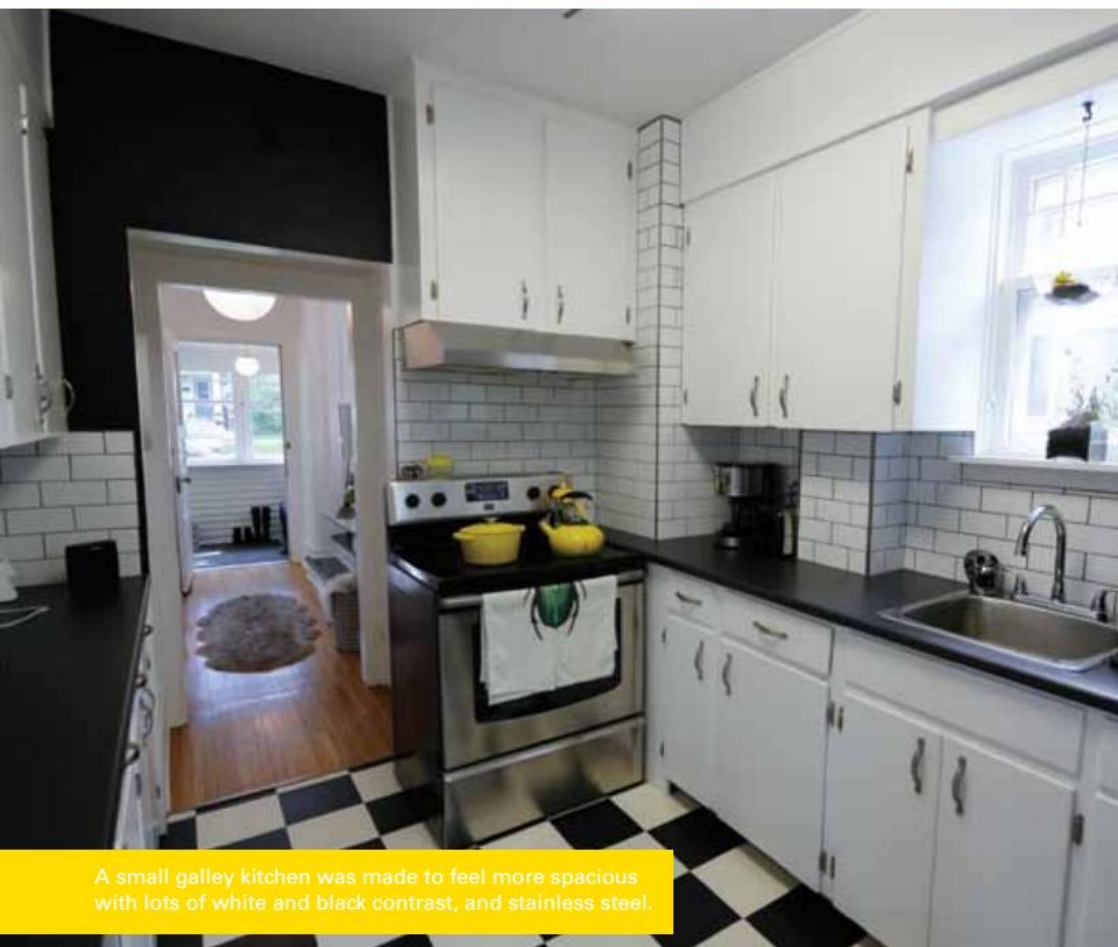
"I grew up in a home that was very avant-garde, so I had been exposed to the concept of being experimental with a space. I really embraced the idea of power clashing. Different patterns and textures set against each other," says Arielle. "The home has amazing bones to start with, wonderful natural light and great flow. I wanted to just add my own flair, give it a new life while still respecting its history."

A Two-Fold Focus

There were two spaces where Arielle decided to focus her efforts. As with most renovation projects, the kitchen and bathroom required the most attention.

"A lot of what I wanted to do could be accomplished with paint, but these two spaces needed a little bit more TLC," says Arielle. "I love to cook so the kitchen renovation was important to me. It was mostly cosmetic. New backsplash, new counters, refinished cabinets. I really wanted to keep as much of the original true-to-era elements to maintain the cohesive design," she explains.

The bathroom needed help. "I replaced the flooring, added a new vanity and reluctantly replaced the original clawfoot tub with



A small galley kitchen was made to feel more spacious with lots of white and black contrast, and stainless steel.



Daughter Arielle and mother Kim: Arielle credits the success of the project to her mother's creative eye and design experience.



After

a new tub." This decision was the hardest to make. "We just couldn't salvage the old tub. It was sad, but we wanted to make sure the fixture was functional and would stand up long term."

Guidance Along the Way

"I wouldn't have been able to pull this off without help from my mom," Arielle insists. Her mother, Kim Humphries, has always had a passion for design. Kim created a ➤



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After



Before



family home that “pushed the boundaries” of what is the norm or considered as traditional.

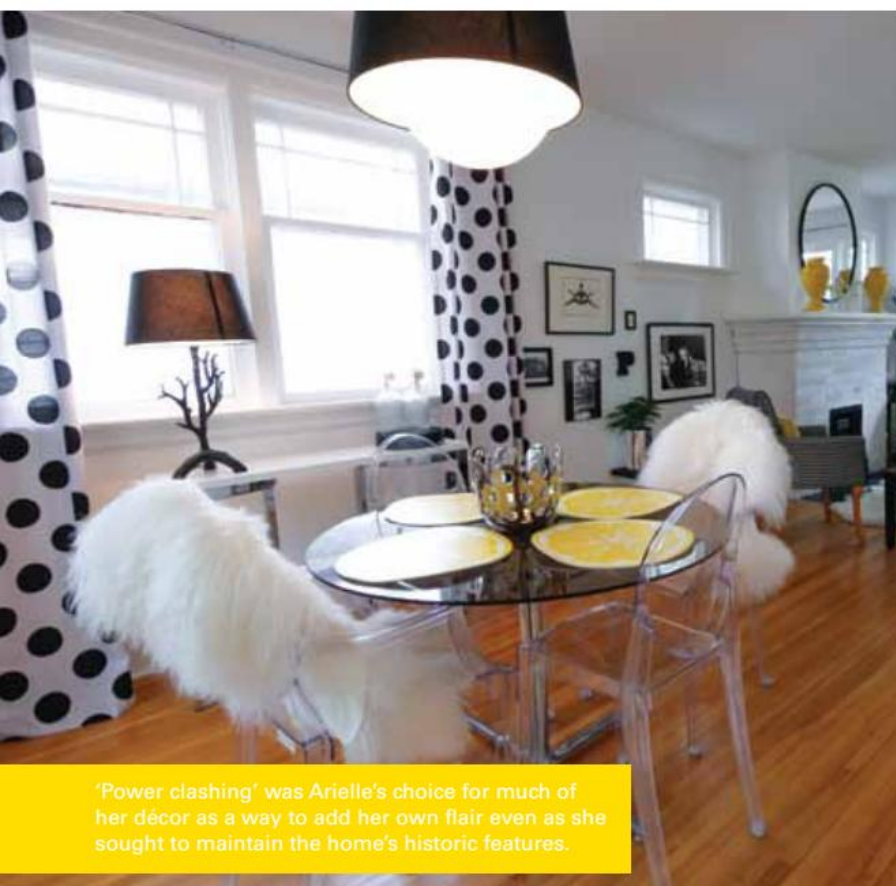
“She helped me with so much. She kept my sometimes impatient 26-year-old self in check and guided me through the sequence of steps I needed to take,” Arielle admits. “One element I didn’t even think of was the possibility of replacing the textured ceilings. At her guidance, and insistence, we changed the ceilings out for a more sleek, painted finish. It instantly changed the feel

of the space. Brought it right into this century. I couldn’t be more thankful for that bit of advice.”

All in the Details

Arielle infuses her limited space with one-of-a-kind pieces. “With a small footprint, it’s even more critical for everything to have a purpose and intent. No overly furnished spaces, just the right amount in each room. Everything here has a story,” says Arielle.

Arielle also took the design approach of creating ➤



“Power clashing” was Arielle’s choice for much of her décor as a way to add her own flair even as she sought to maintain the home’s historic features.



Not afraid to make an impact, Arielle chose bright and bold colours and modern accents.



"high/low options." She found inspiration for high end looks in design magazines, but pulled them together on a low budget.

"I love shopping for second-hand items," she says proudly. "I made some investments in Canadian-made furniture, but I have been patient to find the right items that work with the space," she adds. Taking the

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extra time to discover what works in her space hasn't always been easy. But "at the end of the day, my patience has paid off."

It was a big step to become a first-time homeowner at 26, and then tackle a big renovation project. But the result has breathed new life into this 1928-era character home without

losing her personality or its charm.

"I love my home," says Arielle. Blending this house's history and personality with her own style makes for the best story of all. (i)

Krista Martens



With its solid structure, good bones and preserved character, this Buena Vista charmer was perfect for a first-time homeowner.

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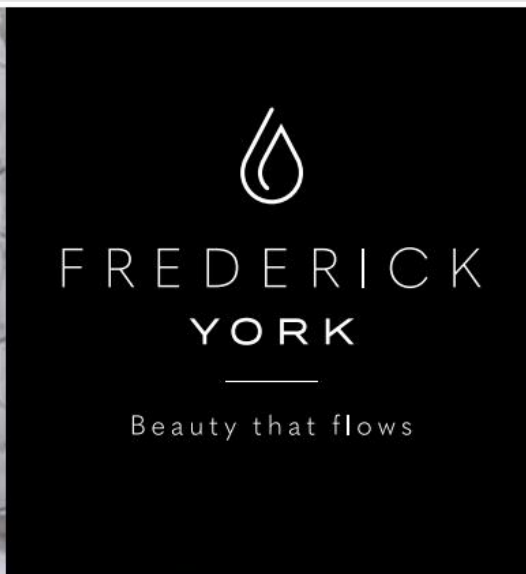
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THE WEBB BLOCK

COULD THIS BE SASKATOON'S FIRST APARTMENT BUILDING?

On the downtown corner of 25th Street East and Third Avenue North, there is a long-standing two-storey apartment building with a buff-coloured brick façade. As a young child, Amanda Soulodre had a recurring thought whenever she passed by.

"I thought the Huxtable family lived there," she says, noting the similarities between the Saskatoon building and the brick row house that stood in for the fictional New York City home on *The Cosby Show*. As publisher of Saskatoon HOME, Amanda

saw a way to sate her interest in the property.

She's not the only person who's been curious about the building and its tenants.

Brad Maguire and his family have owned the building for the past two decades. Known as the Webb Block, it was built

by Frederick Webb in 1908. And it might just be Saskatoon's first apartment building.

"It seems like a rumour, but there's no evidence that anything else was built previously," says Brad.

When his family took ownership, Brad's own curiosity led



JULIE BARNES



LILLIAN LANE

him to review Saskatoon's old Henderson's Directories to learn about previous tenants.

"One lady, Mrs. Cooksey, lived there from about 1933 to 1969, so she was the record holder until a couple of tenants who live there now moved in in the 70s." He's relying

on memory for those dates. "I think they've beaten her record," says Brad.

Frederick and Maria Webb

The City's historical records on the building note that Frederick Henry Webb, a contractor, arrived in ➤



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The residential block has been home to many tenants over the years. This photo was taken in the 1990's during renovations.

Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives - ph-2006-171

Saskatoon in 1906. He claimed that the Webb Block was the city's first apartment block. In addition to the Webb Block, Frederick built Saskatoon's Union Bank Building, the National Trust Building, and a predecessor to the Princess

Alexandra School.

Frederick lived in unit 401 with his wife Maria, until his death in 1923. Ownership then transferred to Maria who stayed there until about 1960. She was active in local community organizations,

including the Girl Guides, the Women's Missionary Society and the IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire). She was even nominated for Saskatoon's Citizen of the Year in 1955.

Records show there was

a fire in 1942, but the extent of the damage wasn't documented. J.H. LaRoche, a contractor, repaired the building at a cost of \$7,000. Five years later, alterations were made and exterior stucco was added.



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Brad Maguire planted hollyhocks at the Webb Block 20 years ago. Some of them grew up to 7-feet tall.

Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives - ph-2017-88



Changing Hands Over a Century

In 1962, John LaRoche became a co-owner of the building, and the LaRoche family retained ownership until 1971, when Nicholson Brothers Motorcycles purchased it. Brad Maguire's family bought the Webb Block from the Nicholson brothers in the late 1990s, making them the building's fourth owners.

"One of the Nicholson

brothers—I think it was the last remaining one—had a tiny handwritten sign out front, listing the building for sale," says Brad. His father, Doug Maguire noticed it. "It was quite the project, but it was something we were willing to tackle together."

The Nicholson brothers owned a well-known motorcycle dealership in Saskatoon, and the Webb Block used ➤

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to include a garage where they stored equipment, says Brad. Although he didn't witness it himself, he heard that "all the old motorcycles and parts had been dragged out of the building" right before the Maguires took ownership.

Heard Through the Grapevine

The single-family house next door to the Webb Block used to sit on a double lot, says Brad. In the mid-1940s, a woman purchased the home, and at some point during her time there, she found herself short of money to pay her taxes. She eventually raised the money by selling 15 feet of her property to the Webb Block's owners at the time. It was a story the woman's son, a war veteran, told Brad several years ago.

A small stucco caretaker's suite still sits behind the

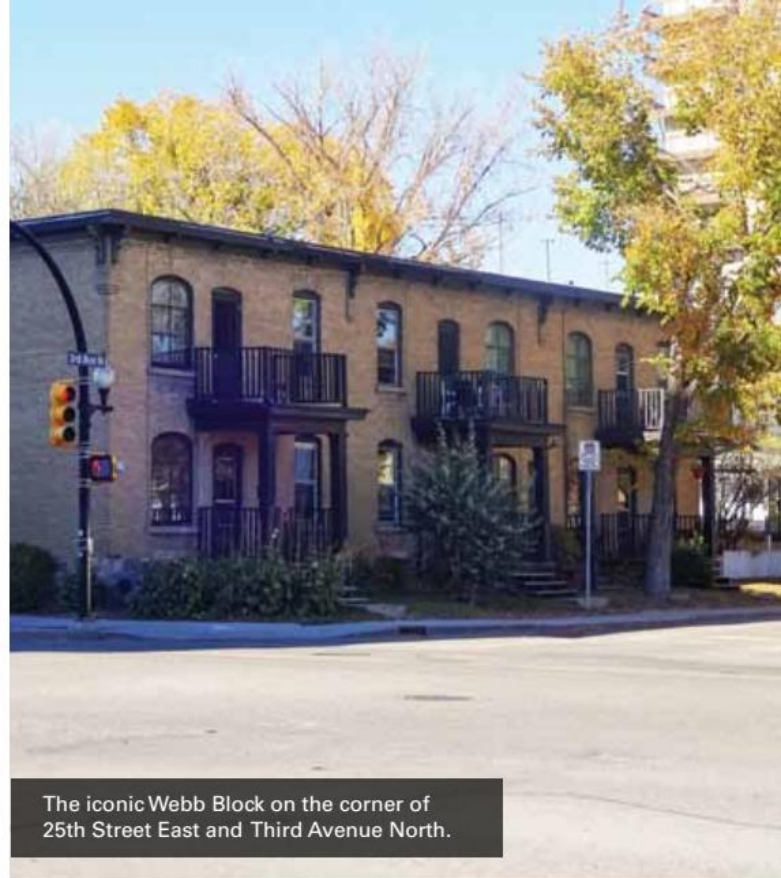
building. The war vet told Brad that a man named Jimmy Wilson lived there and acted as the Webb Block's caretaker for several years.

Webb Block Today

A number of architectural details remain today, infusing the exterior with charm and character. Windows and doors are topped with arched vousoirs, brackets support a decorative wooden cornice and dental mouldings add a unique feature to the base of the second-floor balconies.

"The Webb Block now has 15 units. Some of them still retain their original interior woodwork," says Brad. The apartments vary in size and range from one to three bedrooms.

Brad says Frederick and Maria's former suite has the



The iconic Webb Block on the corner of 25th Street East and Third Avenue North.

A photograph taken between 1909 and 1912 shows the apartment block stood long before 25th Street was paved.



Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives • ph-93-166-60



The Webb Block circa 1970.

Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives - ph-2017-73-102

original electric fireplace, "which is pretty unique for the time because in 1908 electricity just came out."

He says it's a shame there aren't more photos of the building from the early 1900s.

"I would have been curious to see when they started parking cars in the back," he says. The building was constructed before cars became commonplace. In fact, the first Ford Model-T was produced the same year the apartment block was built.

The Webb Block has seen

it all from horses and carts to hybrid cars. At 110 years old, it's been largely lived in during a time when, without the internet at their disposal, people fashioned their own handwritten signs to advertise a building for sale and hoped the right person would stumble across it and make an offer.

Whether or not it is Saskatoon's first apartment block, it has stood the test of time. (i)

Julie Barnes

Do you have a story to share about the Webb Block? Or perhaps historical interior or exterior photos? Email amanda@saskatoon-home.ca so we can continue to build on the memory of this notable building.



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Big shining sports moments, favourite athletic greats, and coveted autographed game gear. For one 'superfan,' his basement has become a hall of fame for big league football, hockey and baseball. Yet it's more about the memories

than the memorabilia.

For Italian-born and raised Franco Soldo, it was a deal struck with his wife Julia. He got the basement; she got the rest of the house to decorate as she liked. Over the past 15 years, that basement has

become an eclectic homage to his sporting obsession, most notably with the New York Giants, Boston Red Sox, Toronto Maple Leafs, Canadian Men's National Hockey team—aw, heck, anyone outstanding in athletics.

More Than Just Stuff

Far from being a sports memorabilia hoarder, Franco's 'fan cave' is a lovingly yet well curated museum filling nearly every square inch with items and photographs autographed by his favourite sports ➤



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idols. All manner of ephemera captures memorable milestones in sports history. But it's a working museum. Father of eight-year-old twins, Franco and his cadre of buddies often watch games on two big-screen TVs, play foosball, and retell tales of great plays for the millionth time. They've been known to toss around a few autographed footballs. It's not a hands-off shrine.

High school history teacher and soccer coach by day and rabid sports fan the rest of the time, Franco eschews most local publicity about his jaw-dropping sports collection. But he did allow the New York Giants (Giants.com) a feature article. ESPN and StubHub came to Saskatoon with cameras last year to capture Francow at home and at school, airing last fall on their Superfan series.

All About Memories...And a Little Trash Talk

For Super Bowl 2011, Franco and his buddies gathered to watch the New York Giants, led by Eli Manning, confront Tom Brady and the New

England Patriots.

Franco was the only Giants fan in the room and took a lot of ribbing. He paced the entire game, literally wearing a path in the carpet, lapping his Eli 'Easy E' Manning autographed jersey... footballs, cleats, hats, glove, helmet and game program. Despite their taunts, he held firm. When the Giants won, he enjoyed a little 'in your face' retribution.

"Let's just say what is said in the fan cave stays in the fan cave."

Go Big

"I don't believe in half-tries," Franco says. "I tell my kids and my students that if you're passionate about something, put yourself into it. Live life, be a good human being, go big!" An autographed football helmet from Giants great turned broadcaster-actor Michael Strahan was the first item Franco acquired in 2007.

In 2017, after seeing a photo of Franco's fan cave, Strahan tweeted his admiration. "It was five minutes of fame and then it just went crazy." ➤





Franco's basement hall of fame isn't a hands-off collection. Autographed footballs get tossed around and game days can be raucous. But the collection isn't a jumble of stuff. Instead, the displays are museum quality.

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In appreciation for his superfan status, the Giants flew Franco and his brother to a game. VIP passes got them on the field with the players.

Franco, in his blue overalls and fireman's helmet, signed by the players, tries to attend at least one big game every year. The Big Blue Canuck has become a Big Blue Deal.

Code of Conduct Real Collector's Item

"It's only made me love the teams I support so much more," Franco says of his collection and devotion to the Giants and other athletes. "But it's not just the stuff. It's how they conduct themselves."

At the top of that list is his "favourite guy" Michael Strahan. When Franco first emigrated from Italy to Canada

in the 1980s, Strahan was the face of the NFL franchise and a good role model. Now an avid supporter of the Kinsmen Sports Celebrity Dinner, Franco can give a little back to the sports figures he loves. The event lets him rub shoulders with a few.

"Hands down, Bobby Orr is the most decent person I've ever met. There for the right reasons, so friendly and kind. He donated so much of his own money," Franco says.

The hallmarks of the greatest are clear to Franco. "I think for some guys it's going from having nothing to having millions of dollars overnight and they just can't handle it. I've met so many players, and the ones I admire and respect are honourable, decent people kids can look up to. They ➤



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Even bathroom display space is at a premium.

aren't just consummate athletes. They're kind and generous human beings."

Basta, non c'è più spazio nel seminterrato!

Franco, whose mother tongue is Italian, says he's at the end zone now, largely because he's out of space and he's not allowed to start creeping up the stairs. "I might be done now."

But, "I'm always looking for things that have real meaning."

The history teacher in him may be the backdrop for all this, though he's not really considered the connection. A few items go beyond sports. For Christmas, wife Julia gave him a little chunk of the Berlin Wall. He has a tiny shard of the World Trade Centre. A bit of sand from Juno Beach. A piece of the Atlantic Wall built

between 1942-44.

"I'm a memory guy. I'm pretty nostalgic," he says. "If it has historic significance, if it was a powerful event, I'm there. If it was a great game, I'm all over it."

On the Bucket List

What's the one elusive, most coveted thing still out there? Turns out it's not something he can frame or put in a display case.

"Meeting Michael Strahan would be the ultimate." A handshake, a couple of beers, avere un discorso. A chat about football. Okay, maybe a selfie to frame. "That would be the pinnacle."

It's all about making big memories.

Giant ones, in fact. (H)

Karin Melberg Schwier





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HEY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA

SASKATOON INVENTORS, INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

Canada is no slouch when it comes to clever and useful inventions dreamt up by its citizens. Maybe it's the long winters, heaps of fresh air, or just a 'we got this' resourceful mentality for solving problems. Behold

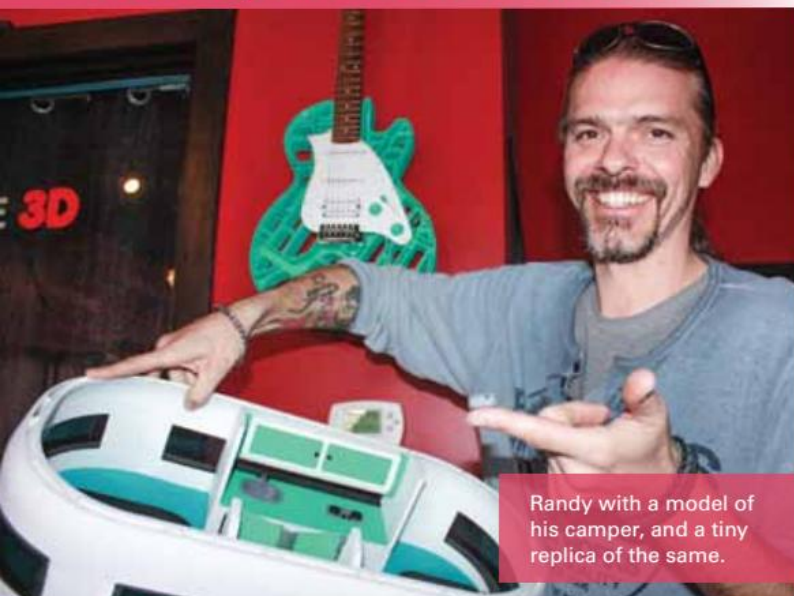
the paint roller, garbage bag, phone pager, CB radio, peanut butter, the Wonderbra, canola oil, the snowblower (figures), basketball, pabulum, insulin, electric wheelchair, the pacemaker, the fibreglass

goalie mask (also, figures). Saskatoon-born Picatic was just sold to Eventbrite, a billion-dollar San Francisco-based ticketing and event company. *Nous sommes Canadiens.*

In this tradition of putting

good ideas into action, HOME looks at just a few Saskatoon thinkers who have given birth to their own brainchildren. Some are small, one is the world's biggest, and one will be literally out of this world.

THE WORLD'S FIRST 3D PRINTED CAMPER INVENTOR RICK JANES OWNER, WAVE OF THE FUTURE 3D



Randy with a model of his camper, and a tiny replica of the same.

'3D printing' is suddenly ubiquitous. A complex process, simple idea. A computer reads a digital file, and nozzles put down successive layers of material, like plastic or metal, until the object is three-dimensional.

A lot of media took note of a Saskatoon world 3D first by Rick Janes. Rick is the owner of the Printron, the largest indoor 3D printer in North America. With a background in the recreational vehicle industry, he always bemoaned RVs and campers that simply break down over time. Materials and finishes deteriorate, seams split and leak, screws and bolts shake out. What if you could create a single shell camper all in one durable piece?

Voila: The Wave, a 600-pound single-piece camper trailer, 13 feet long, six feet wide, with a 100-year life expectancy. It took over 230 hours to fabricate on Randy's 28-foot custom 3D printer and the operational team at Create Café helped bring the idea to life. Randy is already thinking about 16- and 19-foot models, a truck bed version, and other applications like 3D printed boats, ice fishing shacks, and perhaps tiny houses.

Call it a million dollar idea. Originally dubbed Magnoplug, this twist on an old electrical plug technology was invented by Arash Janfada, a civil and geological engineer, and Will Topping, an electrical engineer, both U of S grads. The way people connect to electricity hadn't changed much since 1879 until these two got to thinking. In 2013, the pair revealed their solution to The Winter Drive of Shame. You forget to unplug the block heater and drive off dragging the electrical cord down the street, possibly with a freshly damaged grill and bumper. Arash and Will knew there had to be an alternative to the three-prong plug.

After developing a prototype, working on changing certification standards, and gathering a team, the product became Voltsafe. With its patented "magnetic activation," a microcontroller starts the power when magnets are connected, and the power stops when magnets are pulled apart. VoltSafe can be adapted to any voltage or amperage.

Arash and Voltsafe co-founder and CEO Trevor Burgess pitched the "reinvention of the electrical plug" on *Dragons' Den* in January and stirred up a bidding war. Dragon Michelle Romanow was so impressed she invested \$1 million. Voltsafe Winter, the solution to that Drive of Shame, is taking pre-orders. Development continues on other applications like home and marine versions. ➤

VOLTSAFE INVENTORS ARASH JANFADA, CIVIL AND GEOLOGICAL ENGINEER, AND WILL TOPPING, ELECTRICAL ENGINEER



Arash and Voltsafe CEO Trevor Burgess pitch their idea.

Photos: Courtesy
CBC Dragons' Den

PORTABLE MRI ASTRONAUT HEALTH MONITOR RESEARCHER DR. GORDON SARTY AND U OF S STUDENT TEAM

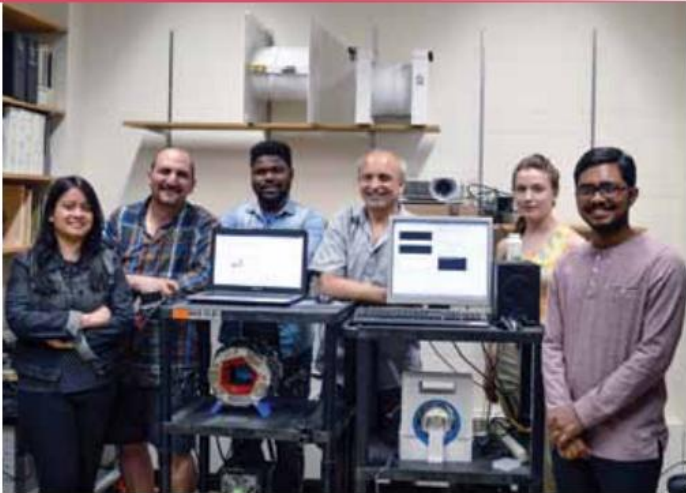


Photo: Courtesy University of Saskatchewan

With a grant of \$100,000 from the Canada Space Agency (CSA) and a team of researchers at the University of Saskatchewan, Gordon's invention will be flying high. Literally. The interim chair of Biomedical Engineering and department head of Psychology and his team are designing an ankle-sized magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technology to study bone and muscle health of astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS).

On prolonged space trips, the loss of bone and muscle mass in weightless conditions is a serious issue. The goal is to create a compact ankle MRI that weighs about 50 kilograms. In 2014, Gordon's team designed a wrist MRI, but the CSA subsequently wanted an ankle MRI. His team's advancements in MRI technology since 2014 make the light ankle MRI possible. Gordon was awarded a \$500,000 grant by CSA two years ago to test his experimental MRI in a jet under zero-gravity. Testing requirements on the ISS are much more stringent.

Gordon is cautiously optimistic. "Until this MRI flies in space," he tells HOME, "the big idea is not yet realized. So more work is needed."

The CSA will review the preliminary design in 2019.

ORA ALERT INVENTOR SERESE SELANDERS, FOUNDER AND CEO



Serese models the ORA Alert jewelry option.

Concerned for her elderly father's safety in the remote town of Val Marie, knowing he wouldn't wear a medical alert device "that looked like a garage door opener," Serese created a discreet one that is disguised in various holders, including jewellery.

Powered by a magnetic battery charger, it pairs with a smartphone, so works wherever there is cellular coverage. An app tracks inactivity, indicates battery usage and GPS location. Instead of a routing through a call centre, unlimited friends and family can receive alerts. If the contacts aren't available, the device calls 911 even if the phone is in a locked, sleep state or the app is swiped away. Serese created a size that's easy to handle. "Any smaller and it might make it difficult to use, especially for people with limited dexterity or poor eyesight," she explains.

ORA was created for older adults, but the largest sales growth is in the lone worker market: realtors, taxi drivers, home care nurses, mobile mortgage specialists, massage therapists. Serese is working with several governments to outfit staff in highways, audit and parole occupations. The device already saved two people who were in distress. "We have a long way to go, but that alone means success."

THE DALMATIAN SMART FIRE PREVENTION INVENTORS/DEVELOPERS MIKE RANSOM AND JACKIE MARTIN

A pot of pasta on the stove left unattended. The homeowner returns to black smoke and blaring detectors, luckily no fire. When journeyman electrician Mike Ransom—the guy with the pasta—had an idea that would prevent the number one cause of household fires in North America (unattended cooking), he joined forces with Jackie Martin, a home construction professional, to develop it.

The Dalmatian, named for the iconic fire-fighting dog, is a 12" x 12" box mounted by the main electrical panel and connects the smoke alarm to select plugs in the kitchen. When the smoke alarm detects a problem, the patent-pending Dalmatian kills electricity to the cooking appliances to stop smoke damage and eventual fire.

"We added remote smartphone access capabilities for clients who worry they left something on once they left home," says Jackie. "We also made it so the system could be modified for a bathroom plug." Though the risk of fire is lower than in the kitchen, it offers additional peace of mind.



Jackie and Mike partnered to create The Dalmatian.

KWIK BAGIT ECO SYSTEM ADJUSTABLE BAG HOLDER INVENTOR HAROLD SOKYRKA

Harold Sokyorka has been called a "serial inventor." His latest idea, a portable, eco-friendly multi-use bag holder, makes yard work and other tasks easier. Now that plastic bags are a no-no in the blue recycling bin, "this will save you money," says Harold, "and with the reusable bags, you'll be reducing the amount of terrible plastic entering our landfills."

The patent-pending adjustable "utility device" has telescopic rails and legs, and can hold any sized bag with retaining clips. The reusable machine-washable poly cloth bag is sturdy for collecting yard debris, sorting recyclables and laundry. It converts to seating, a table, or drying rack for the beach, picnics or camping.

An innovator since the age of eight, Harold's invented a variety of products, including Luminite, a neon lighting-lookalike made from a material that would glow when exposed to UV light. He also managed his daughter Theresa's music career after she was a finalist on Canadian Idol. ➤



Harold Sokyorka with his latest in a long line of inventions.

REFRESH WELLNESS INVENTOR NAQSH KOCHAR CHIEF STRATEGIST, REFRESH INC.



Naqsh Kochar explains the 'wellness platform' to Josie Fries.

Naqsh's wellness platform employs the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to generate real-time, personalized solutions to individual mental wellness needs.

The platform gathers and interprets data to monitor an individual's—or organization's—well-being. "Based on information provided by the user and gathered from the physical environment," Naqsh explains, "the platform makes a real-time assessment of the state of wellness. It suggests helpful options for improvement. It gathers daily measurements of the person's state of well-being and forms a log that presents reports on progress over time." This helps identify patterns and potential triggers, and what is beneficial for their overall mental well-being.

The app may suggest activities such as a yoga class, meditation group, running club, or make complex assessments such as recommending consultation with a professional. It taps into the services and options that are nearby and ensures they are adapted to the individual. Collaborators include the Canadian Mental Health Association, the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the Government of Canada.

SIMPLE STEP STAIR STRINGERS INVENTOR THOMAS CHIZEK, GREAT MOUNTAIN ENTERPRISES

For over 20 years Tom has worked in the construction industry, specifically on maintenance-free sundecks. Working on many beautiful projects throughout Saskatoon over the years, he noticed many limitations to the stair stringers that are available.

"All of the stringers out there have a set riser height of 7.5 inches, making the slope of the stair case fixed. This is very inconvenient when a different stair angle would work better for a space," says Tom. He also found that many stringers would lose their strength with more than four steps, bouncing like a spring board, requiring reinforcements underneath.

Strength, durability, flexibility, style - these were all motivators in Tom's journey to invent the Simple Step stair stringer system. Starting from scratch with an idea, to sketches in a notepad, it took engineers, prototypes, product testing, molds and more steps along the way. He has created a unique stair stringer system that has a patent pending in Canada and the USA.

Made of maintenance-free powder-coated aluminum, the Simple Step stair stringer system has a track that allows an adjustable step depth to be set. With a stair-chart calculator, Tom can predetermine what every step riser height is. "We can quickly customize our system for any deck, and it is easily installed by a professional or on your own." To complete the project, a customer selects the stair tread and can then enjoy the unique design.



PATENTLY OBVIOUS— THE FIRST FIVE STEPS FOR INVENTORS

One Saskatoon lawyer believes the patent system is “arcane and archaic, a challenging area of law that most people don’t have the opportunity to encounter very often. Rob Hendry is a lawyer who focuses on patent prosecution, technology-related agreements and IP portfolio strategic advising. He is a partner in MLT Aikins LLP science and technology practice. He offers suggestions to inventors who feel their brainchild might be the next big thing. “While a patent can be a powerful commercial tool, the system can be expensive and time-consuming and full of traps,” Rob cautions. “So here are a few tips for inventors.”

Keep it Confidential – One of the requirements for patentability is novelty. If your invention is made public, the invention isn’t novel anymore and you might lose the chance to get a patent. To ensure you maintain the ability to pursue a patent, make sure every communication is confidential, and get a non-disclosure agreement signed every time.

Patents Don’t ‘Protect’ Anything – A misconception is that getting a patent means you’re protecting your invention. A patent doesn’t protect anything; it is a monopoly, plain and simple. A patent is a right to sue somebody, a mechanism allowing you to stop others from copying your invention. But the fact that you can block access to the invention is exactly why the system provides commercial power.

You Don’t Need a Patent to Use Your Invention – Again, a patent is just a right to sue – it is not a license to practice. Also, even if you obtain a patent, you might still be

infringing someone else’s more foundational patent.

Due Diligence: Where the Smart Money Is – Existing patents may block your ability to obtain your own patent and you may even infringe one or more of those existing patents. Just like any new commercial venture, due diligence is crucial. Do some online patent searching (there are great databases available), or even retain a professional searcher to do a more thorough job. Don’t proceed with the cost of the patent system until you’ve assessed your position.

Engage a Patent Agent Early – While inventors may be able to file their own patent applications in the right situations, there are many horror stories of opportunities lost by not engaging the right professional support. It is true that the services of a patent agent will cost you, but the risk of going it on your own is that the patent application fails to meet the legal requirements and you lose the chance to get a patent (lots of time and money for nothing). Before you engage the system, or even start talking to potential business partners, take the time to visit a patent agent.

Note: This sidebar is of a general nature only and is not exhaustive of all possible legal rights or remedies. In addition, laws may change over time and should be interpreted only in the context of particular circumstances such that these materials are not intended to be relied upon or taken as legal advice or opinion. Readers should consult a legal professional for specific advice in any particular situation.

THE PAGE TURNER PROTOTYPE BY SASKINVENT WITH U OF S MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND PROGRAMMING STUDENTS

The Page Turner allows someone with limited upper body mobility to independently read physical books. The idea began as a design project for a mechanical engineering class at the University of Saskatchewan, and ultimately SaskInvent took over to create a prototype. “A small group of students have been learning and applying mechanical, electrical, and programming skills,” says Eric Gerwing, SaskInvent president. “The microcontrollers—effectively small computers—control the timing and operation of servo motors.” When cued, the device picks up one page from a book or magazine and flips it over to the other side. “The device is prompted by means available to individual users,” says Eric, “like a large button or a hands-free mouth operated LipSync device, provided by Makers Making Change.” ➤



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Übuild is an easy-to-assemble modular "playhaus for toys, cats, dogs and whatever else needs a little home," says Crystal. "We believe in small living solutions so having a modular playhouse that can be stored or transported with ease is key." Made of finished birch plywood, pieces fit together with tabs.

"When I was a kid, my industrious parents bought me tools as gifts. I was doing scaled millwork drawings by the time I was 12 and making things in the wood shop. Instead of playing with dolls, I was designing and making collapsible furniture for them on my scroll saw."

"Ideas always start with lots of sketching. Once we were happy with the basic forms, we drew CAD (computer-aided design) plans. Then we had the CNC (computer numerical control) company do a few tests. After a crowd-funding campaign and lots of photoshoots, we designed the instruction manual, packaging, and went into production." The patent is pending. (i)

Karin Melberg Schwier



Photos: Bldg Studio

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LILLIAN LANE



It's all about planting a seed. When Duncan McKercher looked out over 400 acres of his parents' scrub pastureland in 2008, he knew something good could come of it. Bound by the land development rules in Corman Park, he could put in a feedlot operation. He could build a prison. Or he could

establish a seniors' community. The seed dropped.

What Duncan, a land developer, didn't want to do was anything typical. He envisioned something different, more spirited, dignified and respectful. He wanted to incorporate the natural countryside on the edge of Saskatoon, and make

it a feature of a community where seniors could have their changing needs met without disruption in their lives.

The seed began to grow.

A Plan for Aging in Place

Duncan and his business partner and wife Heike Heimann researched best practices in

senior living, and consulted with a team of architects, engineers and planners in British Columbia. They ultimately came up with elements for a unique community that included four phases of development. Independent living in houses would be the entry point with



For retirees Roger and Dianne Treslan, the idea of “being stacked up on top of people in the city with views of the building next door” was not in the retirement plan. Crossmount is “out in the country; it’s what we love and what we’re used to.”

options for increasing support and care as needs and desires change.

“Duncan’s family originated in Scotland, and Crossmount is where his great-great grandmother came from,” says Heike. “The first neighbourhood of independent houses is called Fortingall, an area where his

great-great grandfather’s family originates. So we are really honouring ancestral roots here.”

After Fortingall, there are three more 40-acre neighbourhoods of independent homes planned. An additional 40 acres will be set aside for a ‘village core’ of another 500 residences made up of ➤





supportive care and condo- and apartment-style accommodations. In time, Crossmount will be home to a total of 1,200 people. The balance of the property is set aside for agri-tourism, horticulture production and parkland.

Amenities, Supports and Lifelong Learning

The community includes public elements that draw non-residents to Crossmount “to avoid any sense of isolation we fear sometimes happens for seniors in more traditional facilities.” Developers wanted a place where residents can be as laid back as they like or as active as they can be.

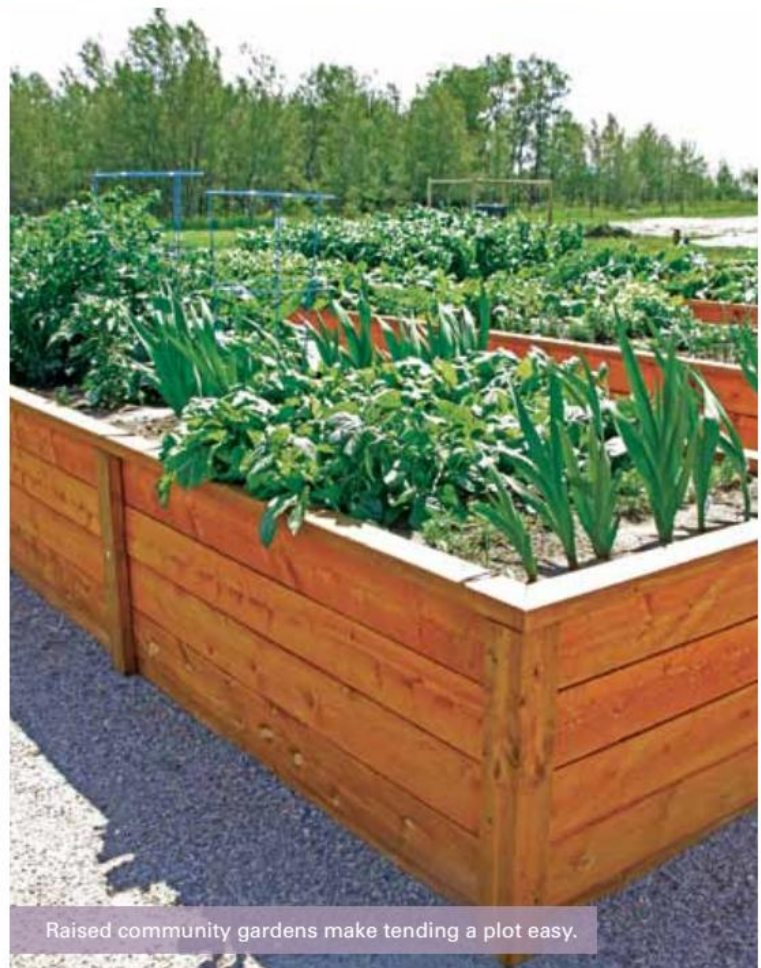
There are existing and planned community gardens and extensive apple orchards happily pollinated by Farmer Brown bees, accessible walking trails, a wellness centre with fitness facilities and spa, greenhouse, pond, an event

hall with banquet services, a café and coffee shop, a cidery and tasting room, and gift shop. An appreciation for lifelong learning is evident in arts and cultural events and classes. Roy’s Place, named for a mechanic friend, is a planned workshop for residents who still love to tinker. In-home care services, physio, rehabilitation and dental services are now available. A full-time on-site ‘health concierge’ co-ordinates services for residents.

“To live at Crossmount means this is your community as you age. You never have to leave, unless you choose to, of course,” says Heike. “But this is your home. Your needs will be met and you can stay forever.”

A Unique Way to Support People with Dementia

Duncan and Heike realize that many seniors may develop dementia, and understand families long for secure and



Raised community gardens make tending a plot easy.

caring support. When their daughter was playing hockey in Europe, they made a side trip to Holland to tour the De Hogeweyk 'dementia village.' Crossmount has partnered with that organization to create the first De Hogeweyk-certified community in North America.

"We can take care of every medical and health need in-home our residents may have, except for advanced dementia," explains Heike. "So often a spouse will struggle as a caregiver because there is such a reluctance to put their loved one in 'a place like that,'" she adds. "This will not be 'a place like that.'"

The concept is intended to offer 'freedom of movement' in a designed space that is familiar and engaging unlike an institutional medical model of care. The space helps people with dementia live more normally. It encourages family connections, supports ongoing interests, and helps seniors with familiar daily activities.

The Village here will be based on the Holland model, but with some adaptations for people who live on the Canadian prairies.

"Partnering with De Hogeweyk means we won't miss any key elements, but we will be gearing it for what is familiar to people here. In Europe, you have houses close together, and second floor walkups are more typical. But in Saskatchewan, we don't often have row houses. We want to make sure it will be what people are familiar with."

Designed by Saskatoon Kindrachuk Agrey Architecture, the Village will grow in two phases, eventually home to 150 people.

Groundwork is planned for this fall or next spring at the latest. The Village will take two years to complete. ➤

FALL 2018 Saskatoon **HOME**





Various services and supports are coordinated for residents on site through a 'health concierge.'

Coming in From the Farm

Roger and Dianne Treslan are in their 70s, and deciding to retire from the grain farm at Beechy was made "without any hesitation" once they discovered Crossmount. With grandchildren involved in sports, the couple found themselves on the road constantly to stay connected.

When Crossmount was just getting started, and the main hall was going up, they drove by and curiosity got the better of Dianne. Thinking it was a riding stable, she called and spoke with Duncan, who explained the concept. Another seed dropped.

"We came out, talked to Duncan and Heike and we had such a good feeling, such confidence in them and the plan," says Dianne. The Treslans were among the very first residents to buy into the community.

"As we got older and started thinking about retiring, I couldn't stand the idea of moving into the city," insists Roger. "Going into a condo or apartment, stacked on top of other people, staring out at the building right next to you.

No way. At Crossmount, you're out in the country like we're used to. You've got space."

The couple is active and enjoys the "best of both" with a rural setting and proximity to the city and family. With plenty to do on site, they enjoy jaunts around the community in their golf cart. They relish encounters with deer and other wildlife, though Dianne is not crazy about one raven's obsession with her succulents.

The prospect of health supports and financial security as they need it was an important factor in their decision. For the inevitable end, a fact of life the Treslans are practical about, they have the assurance that Crossmount will buy back their home at 90 per cent of their initial purchase price.

Enjoying Life with a Secure Future

"You don't know what's in store," Roger shrugs. "Any one of us could get sick or get Alzheimer's. You don't want to be separated, sent off to live in different places to be looked after," he says.



"You want to stay together as long as you can. You can get the care you need right at home, and with this new Village they've come up with, we don't have to leave if one of us gets dementia. And we have the security knowing they will buy back the house so our kids don't have to deal with that."

Dianne agrees, and says freedom from worry frees up time now to live life more fully.

"Funny, I never grew vegetables on the farm. That was always Roger's job. But here we are and now I have planted beets, carrots, beans and herbs in the community garden. I guess it's never too late to grow!" (H)

Karin Melberg Schwier

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ALONG THE GREEN PATH

GREEN HOME MISCONCEPTIONS, PAYBACKS AND TRADEOFFS



JULIE BARNES



NATHAN JONES

When Andrey Kharitonov tells people that his new house is energy efficient, he gets the same response, again and again.

"The first thing they say is, 'Oh, you have solar panels on your roof?'"

And although the house he and his wife, Katherina Lebedeva, have lived in for over a year is photovoltaic ready, it doesn't have solar panels—yet—but it's still energy efficient.

Andrey once held the same misconception, until he and Katherina had Vereco Homes design a "Smart Green" home for their growing family.

Ian Loughran, co-owner of

Vereco, says such misunderstandings are common in his industry. A frequent fallacy he hears is that green homes can't also be beautiful.

"You can have the home that you dream of, and you can have energy efficiency together. It's not mutually exclusive," says Ian.

That's because most of the features that make Andrey and Katherina's home energy efficient are things you don't even see—such as extra insulation and passive solar design.

A Win-Win For Going Green

Built by Lexis Homes, Andrey and Katherina's house has

thick, triple-insulated walls. As a result, the windowsills are deep enough to create the perfect perch for the family's houseplants and framed photos. "It's really convenient," says Andrey. "Aesthetically and practically, it just works better."

Most people install just a couple inches of insulation and think they're covered, says Ian. He adds that Vereco has done an analysis that outlines the optimal insulation levels for homes heated with both natural gas and electricity. Those optimal levels depend on house design, lot orientation and how much passive solar the house obtains,

but in general, Ian says electric radiant heated homes would be R56-R64, electric heat with an air-source heat pump would be R36-R44 and natural gas would be R36-R44 also.

Andrey says that some of the features Vereco offered met with what they had already envisioned for their new home. He cites radiant heat as an example. "We wanted to have warm floors, and just coincidentally, that's the energy efficient option."

Ian explains that radiant heating systems provide more thermal mass. "That means the house will stay cooler longer or warmer longer, depending on if ➤



Green homes can be both energy efficient and beautiful.

it's summer or winter." He adds that with radiant heat, there is typically just a 1°C temperature change from floor to ceiling, whereas with forced air, it's often closer to a 3-4°C change.

Katherina adds that radiant heat systems can be expensive to install, "but they're not absolutely necessary to have for a green home. If you absolutely love the warm floors in winter, it would be something you'd want to consider—but people do build green and smart homes without it and they're still doing fine."

Reduce and Save

When it comes to building green, Ian says many people still think they'll pay a steep upfront premium. He says that in 2010, you could expect a 30 per cent premium to build this way, and today it's closer to 5-8 per cent. For Vereco specifically, they find that the decrease is

due to time invested in training their Vereco Licenced Building partners, like Lexis. "They're comfortable building with these technologies," he says.

Andrey explains that Vereco created a savings projection for their home's heating costs. If a comparable home (minus the Smart Green features) consumes \$1,000 in heating per year, their home should consume half of that, resulting in an annual heating bill of \$500.

A third-party audit was completed and confirmed the house is performing 50 per cent better than a comparable house built to standard construction specifications. The home also receives an Energuide Rating System score at the end of the audit.

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efficient feature of the home has its own payback period, calculated by Vereco. Ian says some are as fast as six months, while others stretch to 10 years or more.

"Electricity savings are usually the most cost effective because it's the most expensive utility, but the funniest one that we have is just wrapping a hot water tank in insulation. This has about a six-month payback. It's just the simple things," he says.

He adds that although solar panels have come down in price and are an economical choice, they're still "in the longer end of payback (about 10-12 years) over things like insulation and vapour barrier."

But it's not so much about the payback with solar, says Ian. It's the cost of energy.

"The cost of energy from solar panels, right now, if you have a south-facing roof—south

facing access—is about half of what you would pay from the utility, like SaskPower."

Far From Formulaic

There's no one way to build an energy efficient home.

"You can go as far along the green path as you want," says Ian. "We're not trying to be prescriptive."

That was welcome news for Katherina.

"I thought we were going to be imposed to limitations and restrictions and we're going to be told to do this and that to make it as energy efficient as possible," she says. "But they helped us understand that you don't have to do certain things if you don't want to—there are lots of ways to compensate if you want, say a window on the west or north side, even if it's not the best side to have the window on. If you want it, you should have it." ➤



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Ian says his role is to advise the client on their choices so they can make informed decisions.

"We would prefer to make windows smaller to the west to avoid too much heat, but if someone wants a large west view, we're probably going to have to put in an air conditioning unit," says Ian. "Most of the time we don't

need air conditioning units." All choices have tradeoffs.

Andrey says they decided to scale back on windows—reducing them in number and size—for the sake of efficiency. "I did imagine my house with a lot more windows, especially in the bedrooms," he says.

The only other trade off, design-wise, was square footage lost to the thick, well-insulated

walls, says Andrey. "We were 1,850 square feet on the outside, and on the inside we're around 1,600 square feet," he says, explaining that about 250 square feet of interior space was sacrificed.

But in the end, their bright, beautiful, green home was well worth some lost square footage. In fact, Andrey wonders why more people don't

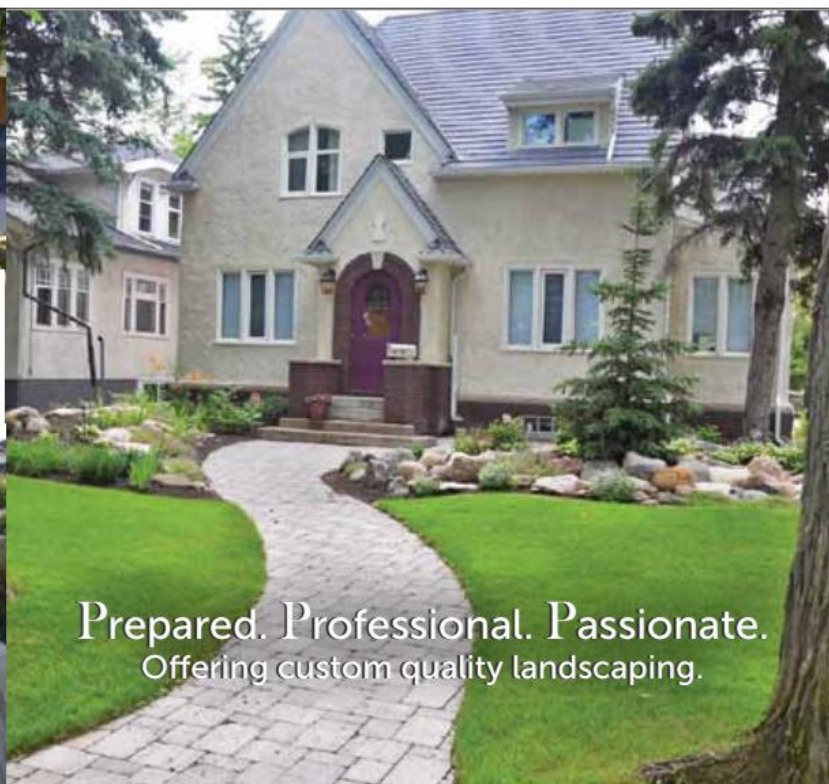
build this way.

"I recommend it to everyone," he says. "I tell them, 'Just do it because it doesn't cost too much upfront and the savings are there. In Saskatchewan, there are eight months of winter, so it's a nice payback and you're going to have a warm house.'" 🏠

Julie Barnes



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HOME FOOD:

CREEPY HALLOWE'EN FOOD TRADITIONS

Even while I'm living my best life in the summer, hoping that winter never comes, there is one thing that makes me yearn for the leaves on the trees to turn colour: Hallowe'en.

I love horror movies. I love gobbling up candy (I buy some for me and some for the trick or treaters). I love dressing up as well as seeing other people's costumes. I even love *The Monster Mash*. I wait all year to decorate my yard with ghosts, ghouls, graves and everything that embarrasses my wife and declares loudly,

"We, at this home, are quite serious about this Hallowe'en thing!"

Heck, I didn't think it was possible for me to be more in love with Hallowe'en. Then we had a child. My son is now five years old (seen above), and as parents do with all things, I'm living vicariously through him as October 31st rolls around.

It's All About Tradition

There have been entire books written on the history of Hallowe'en, and yet there

is still argument as to whether it was a pagan thing or an invention of Christianity. I'm not sure that matters, since it's more of a secular observance now anyway. However, some things taken from the past, like dressing up and trick or treating, have worked their way through time to become modern traditions.

Aside from candy, probably the biggest Hallowe'en 'food' that will come to mind is pumpkin, in the form of the jack o' lantern (uh, don't eat a raw jack o' lantern though).

The Irish brought the tradition of pumpkin carving to North America, however, in ancient Celtic Ireland, where the jack o' lantern originated during harvest festivals, but they didn't use pumpkins...because they didn't have pumpkins!

To ward off evil spirits on All Hallow's Eve, they carved turnips and put embers in them. And let me tell you, a carved up gnarled old turnip is much scarier than anything in *The Exorcist*.

Immigrants to the new world found that pumpkins

were softer and larger, making them easier to carve, and I'm sure, less like nightmare fuel.

Frightening Yet Photogenic Food

We've already done a Saskatoon HOME Magazine foodie column on some of the delicious ways you can cook with pumpkins (see our Fall 2017 issue at www.saskatoon-home.ca).

But it got me thinking about Hallowe'en parties I attended as a child. In ye olden times, they'd bob for apples, but when I was a kid in the 70s and 80s, they'd blindfold you and have you stick your hand in a bowl of—yuck—Brains! (cold cooked spaghetti noodles). Or how about this bowl of—ew, gross—Eyeballs! (Plump, juicy grapes). Fun Hallowe'en foodstuffs are still a thing, but now they are more edible.

I mean, who wants to eat a bowl of cold spaghetti that a bunch of grubby children hopped up on sugar have

been swirling their dirty hands around in? The new dishes are delicious as well as being next level creative and primed for Pinterest.

In fact, if you have some imagination and a passing knowledge of Hallowe'en imagery, you can create anything you can dream up. Make a spider-web design with the icing on a cake. Buy a brain-shaped mold and some Jell-O. And when in doubt, a marshmallow makes a pretty good ghost.

I've scoured the Internet and my personal recipe files to give you a couple of spooky and delicious idea-starters.

First off, the Puff Pastry Mummy. There are a variety of things you can make, depending on your taste, from stuffed jalapeno mummies to mummy dogs (Halloweenies, if you will), which are dead simple (pun intended).

I've included a recipe for



HOMEMADE PUFF PASTRY

Ingredients:

1 cup flour

1/4 teaspoon fine salt

10 tablespoons unsalted butter

1/3 cup cold water

In a medium bowl, add flour and salt, and mix.

Next, cube the butter and add it to the flour bowl. Cut the butter into the dough. It will crumble: you're done when the butter is in pieces the size of peas.

Make a hole in the center of the dough and pour in the water. Stir to combine the dough.

Flour a cutting board and add the dough. Pat it into a rough square. It will seem too dry, but don't add water.

Flour the rolling pin, and roll the dough into a rectangle about 10 inches long.

Fold the bottom third of the dough over the middle of the dough. Fold the upper third of the dough on top of the middle. Rotate the dough one-quarter turn, and repeat. Use additional flour as needed to prevent the dough from sticking.

Roll out, fold, and turn the dough six or seven times.

When done, wrap the dough in plastic wrap and chill for at least an hour. Overnight is even better. You can freeze the dough for later use as well.

When you're ready to use it, roll out with a bit of flour.





CREEPY SEVERED WITCH FINGER COOKIES

Ingredients:

1 cup butter, softened	2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup confectioners' sugar	1 teaspoon baking powder
1 egg	1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract	Red decorating gel
1 teaspoon almond extract	1/2 cup sliced almonds

Combine cream butter and sugar in a bowl. Beat in the egg and extracts. Gradually add flour, baking powder, and salt to the creamed mixture. Divide dough into fourths. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Roll the dough into 1-inch balls. Shape them into three-inch long by 1/2-inch wide fingers. With the flat tip of a table knife, make an indentation on one end of each for a fingernail. Make three slashes in the middle of each finger for the knuckles.

Place on lightly greased baking sheets. Bake at 325° F for 20-25 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool for 3 minutes. Squeeze a small amount of red gel on nail bed; press a sliced almond over gel for nail, allowing gel to ooze around nail. Add some gel at the bottom of the finger as well.

Enjoy! Gives a whole new meaning to chewing your nails.

an amazing homemade puff pastry you can use beyond Hallowe'en. But I'll also allow the use of frozen puff pastry here, especially if you're wrapping it around a kid-friendly food like a hotdog. Going to all the trouble of homemade pastry and then pairing it with a processed hotdog seems kind of silly. But if you have nicer sausages, go homemade.

To make puff pastry sausage mummies, you're basically making pigs in a blanket, with slight adjustments. Heat your oven to 400°F. Cut your puff pastry into strips, with the length depending on the size of the sausage, perhaps a couple of inches per strip for little cocktail wienies or upwards of 10 inches for a hotdog or larger sausage (andouille would work really nicely). Wrap the strips around the sausage, giving it a mummy look, leaving the odd space where you can see the meat underneath, especially in what will become the facial region. Bake until golden, about 15 minutes. Then dab cute little eyeballs on them with mustard.

The other recipe I think is really fun is Severed, Bloody Witch Fingers, usually made as sugar cookies. They look like bony, gnarled witch digits, and yet, they taste great. I'll include the recipe, but you're basically just putting a twist on the shape of a cookie, while

utilizing a bit of coloured gel for blood and an almond for a fingernail.

If you don't want to get overly fancy (or grotesque), you can also just make regular cookies with a Hallowe'en theme. My mom has cookie cutters shaped like ghosts and pumpkins and she makes delicious sugar cookies with them every year. Use some Hallowe'en coloured icing for effect, like orange on the pumpkin or white on a ghost, and you're in business. Of course, you can get more complicated with these as well, painting elaborate faces and details on them.

And, sure, if you're too exhausted from all that house decorating and wandering around the neighbourhood trying to keep up with a thrilled five-year old, you can always skip the baking and buy those giant boxes of assorted chocolate bars. Nothing says Hallowe'en food more than lying on the couch, watching a scary movie, surrounded by a graveyard of tiny wrappers. (f)

Craig Silliphant

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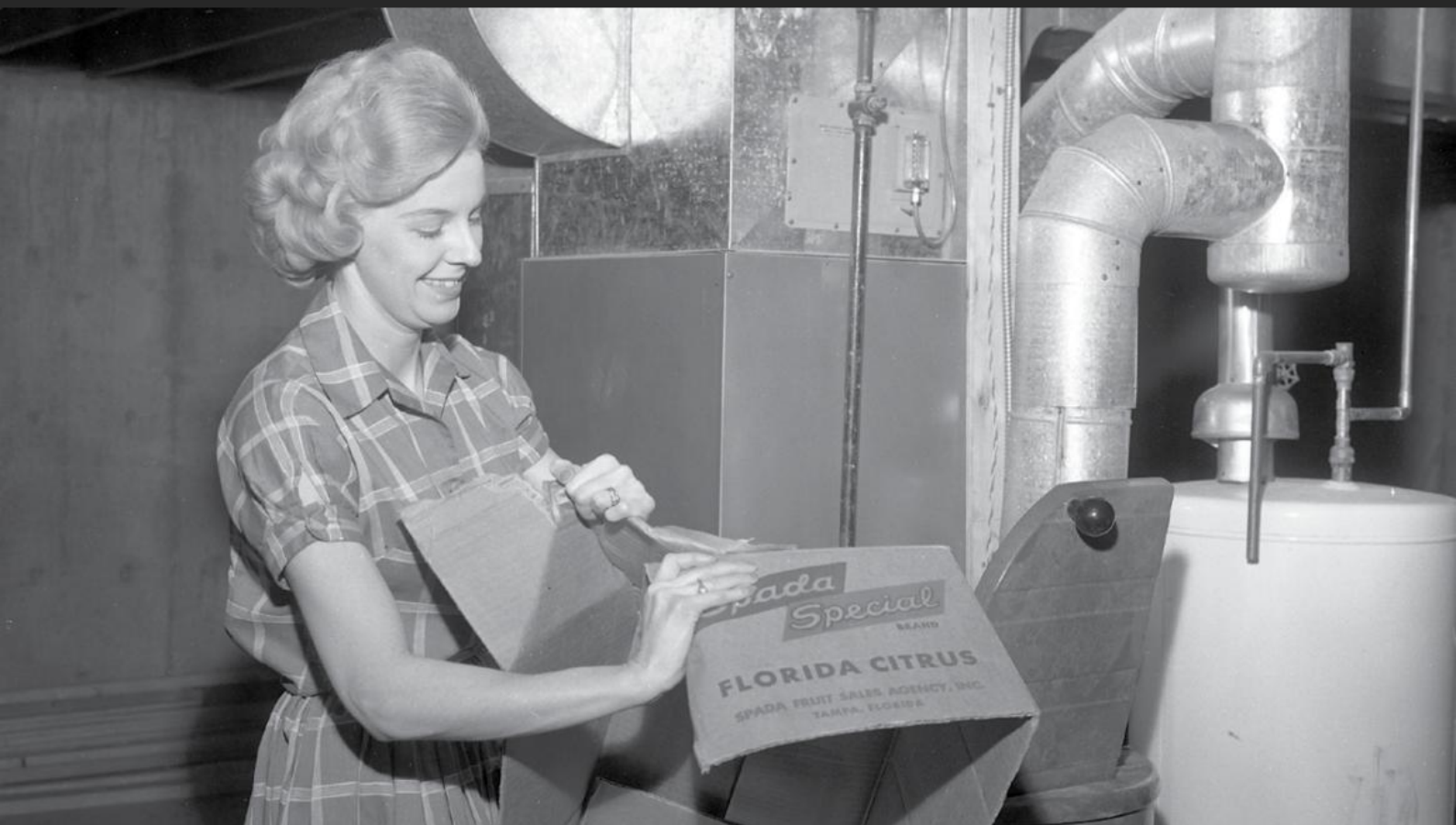


Photo: Archives of Saskatchewan – StarPhoenix Collection – S-SP-B16537-1

We've all been there.

It's garbage day. You forgot to get the bin out, and now you can hear the truck banging and hissing down the street. So there you are, in the dark of a frosty winter morning, in your housecoat and slippers, cursing as you fight your way through the snowdrifts. The truck's at your neighbour's

now, the one with the nice, clean sidewalks who always rolls his bin out when he gets home from work the night before. The bastard. With a desperate heave, you pull your bin free of the snow, losing a slipper in the process. You ignore it; the truck's almost here. In your haste, you brush against the big spruce at the

bottom of the driveway and it drops its full load of snow down your back. Your wail of anguish fills the morning air. But it didn't have to be that way.

As Saskatoon grew after the Second World War, so did the cost to provide civic services. Residential garbage pickup led the way, costing three

times as much in 1958 as it had ten years earlier. Some savings were possible through greater efficiencies. The switch to bigger trucks, for example, reduced the time spent driving out to the landfill and back. But costs continued to rise, and in 1959, the city partnered with the province in a five-year trial to use household incinerators



Official opening of Saskatchewan Power Corporation's natural gas distribution system in Saskatoon, Oct. 1, 1953.

City of Saskatoon Archives – Mills Collection – 2018-301_MIL-12-028-001



Back yard burn barrel, 1961.

Photo: Archives of Saskatchewan – StarPhoenix Collection – S-SP-B 16537-2

to reduce the cost of garbage collection.

A Burning Issue

There's nothing groundbreaking about burning garbage. But the new home incinerators were light years ahead of the stinky, smoky backyard burn barrels people were used to. They were smokeless, odourless and efficient, using natural gas

– which had only come to Saskatoon a few years earlier – to quickly and easily turn even the wettest of kitchen waste into a handful of ashes. No fuss, no muss, no bother; these little machines, tucked away by the furnace and venting straight into the chimney, were the wave of the future.

Under the city's plan, all neighbourhoods under construction became

"incineration districts." There, garbage would be collected once every four weeks instead of the usual once a week, and only unburnable material would be picked up. This applied whether you had an incinerator or not. Since combustibles made up three quarters of household waste, the schedule was perfect... if you had an incinerator. If you didn't, you were going

to have to make your own arrangements for most of your garbage.

Basically, while incinerators weren't actually mandatory in new areas, it was going to be awfully inconvenient not to have one. But going down to one collection a month had the potential to save a pile of money.

The machines cost \$110.00. As an incentive, the city ➤

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Aerial photos of new houses in Greystone, 1965.

Photo: Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library - B-356

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At the request of the Provincial Health Department the following suggestions have been drawn up to guide our citizens in making Sutherland a cleaner and healthier town in which to live, and in which children can thrive, free from danger of diseases which our own carelessness brings upon them.

Be a good citizen. Help clean up. Keep cleaned up. Do not wait for your neighbour to start, get going and watch him follow you:

REFUSE

Place all refuse at the rear of the lot to be conveniently removed by town teams. Potato and all other vegetable tops must be kept in a separate pile until dried and then burned.

Burn all refuse that can be possibly burned.

BASEMENTS

Keep clean and give plenty of fresh air.

YARDS

KEEP CLEAN

GARBAGE RECEPTACLES

A metal can with a close fitting cover is the proper Garbage Receptacle for empty tin cans, fruit and vegetable cans, and to prevent this receptacle becoming an attraction to flies, see that the cover is at all times kept on the can, except when depositing garbage therein. All vegetable and fruit cans should be rinsed out before depositing in the garbage receptacle. Meat and Fish Cans should be placed in the stove and thoroughly burned to destroy all food matter adhering to the sides of the cans before disposal. It only takes a moment to do this so why risk the health of your child or yourself by being careless. No water, slops, or other liquid matter must be deposited in garbage cans.

PAPER

Burn all papers around your yard and house. You have not done your duty as a good citizen when you carry them off your property and allow them to be blown all over your neighbour's premises. Merchants should provide a type of incinerator which will meet with the approval of the Fire Chief for paper and boxes or a large box with a tight lid for storage until it is removed.

CLOSETS

See that the outside closet is put in repair, see that the door at the back fits tight, and do prevent any liquid matter draining therefrom, spade up the earth and bank it up around the closet. An occasional spading around the closet purifies the earth and keeps down flies. Plenty of disinfectant should be used in closets; seats and floor should be scrubbed with a 15% solution of formalin or some other equally good disinfectant used about once a week.

THE SLOPS

Slop and waste matter must be buried at the back of your own lot and not thrown in the alley or on ash piles. No solid matter must be placed with water, and the use of abundance of disinfectant is to be recommended to prevent the breeding of flies.

STABLES

All Stables must be provided with a suitable manure bin as required by the Provincial Health Act.

ASHES

Ashes should be kept on a separate pile and not be mixed with soil or garbage, as it causes a nuisance and is detrimental to health. Clean ashes can always be used for repairing lanes.

By Order of the Health Committee Town of Sutherland.

offered a \$50.00 tax rebate over five years to cover part of the cost. The balance was levied against the customer's monthly gas bill, also spread out over five years. Homes without incinerators also got the tax rebate to help pay for private garbage disposal.

City Hot Spots

There were seven incineration districts to start with: Adelaide, Nutana Park North and South, Greystone Heights, Mount Royal, North Park and Hudson's Bay Park. The plan was limited to new neighbourhoods at first simply because most older houses had the wrong kind of chimney. But it was hoped that over time, all neighbourhoods in Saskatoon would convert to incineration.

The City Engineer, E.J. Cole, was a firm believer. "Home incineration will provide the disposal of material before decay or fermentation takes place," he said. "This can and will reduce the fly menace and possible spreading of disease." Not to mention rats and other nuisances and, as he pointed out, the increasing cost of the "Keep Our City Clean" campaign. If everyone was burning their garbage in their basements, there would be a lot less of it blowing around as litter.

In the first year, more than 900 incinerators were installed, including 300 in existing neighbourhoods. By 1963, there were 1,831 houses with incinerators, including 1,447 in new neighbourhoods – just over half of all homes built there.

Warming Up to the Plan

Initial reports were good. The program was clearly saving the city money – more than \$87,000 by the end of 1963 – and while there were

complaints, a survey in 1961 found that 80 percent of users were either unconditionally satisfied or had only minor objections.

But the surveys only went to homes that had incinerators. For everyone else, it was a different story.

The problem was the four-week schedule. Even some incinerator users complained about that. Problems got worse in 1961 when the city agreed to also pick up burnables. This was intended solely for things that were too big for the incinerators, since apparently people in 1961 didn't know how to take apart cardboard boxes. The possibility that people might actually save up an entire month's worth of garbage for one pickup was dismissed as "highly unlikely."

Of course, that's exactly what happened, with predictable results.

The Hills Are Alive

"During the hot summer months particularly," one writer complained, "this garbage literally comes alive with maggots.... The unsightliness of such filth is something a clean city such as Saskatoon does not require or deserve." Another petition simply stated that "monthly pickup... causes an unhealthy atmosphere in the back lanes."

I'll bet.

There were some problems with the machines, too. They gave off too much heat in the summer, people said, and were a danger to children who might brush against them. One incinerator apparently started a fire (extinguished without damage, fortunately) and some owners complained they cost as much to run as the furnace. Burn times of up to five hours were reported,

and there was also the issue of plastic packaging, which was becoming more common in Saskatoon and which couldn't be burned. Nor were the incinerators necessarily as odourless as advertised.

Interest Cools Down

Civic officials acknowledged the validity of some of the complaints and steps were taken to fix them. But some of the problems were simply operator error, or sometimes sheer laziness, particularly long burn times and odours, which resulted when the machines weren't properly loaded. Nevertheless, by 1961 the newspaper was reporting that some people with incinerators in their basements had actually gone back to using burn barrels because they were more convenient.

Under no circumstances was the city prepared in 1961 to go to weekly pickup in the incinerator districts, pointing out that everyone living there knew from the start that garbage pickup was only going to be once a month. But even a slight increase, once every three

weeks, say, was impossible. While the scheme did save money on garbage collections, those savings were almost exactly balanced by the city's tax rebates. Increasing the frequency of collection by any amount would actually make the incinerators more expensive than the weekly pickups they were supposed to replace.

In the end, it was probably this as much as anything that killed the incinerator program. The main purpose of it had been to save money. Everything else was just gravy. But when the cost of the tax rebate was factored in, the total savings over four and a half years was just under \$500.

Perhaps if the program had carried on a little longer, or if more people had signed on to it (providing economies of scale) it would have worked. But we'll never know. On October 21, 1963, Saskatoon's City Council unanimously voted to cancel the contract, and on January 1, the incineration districts all went to weekly garbage collection. (H)

Jeff O'Brien



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Monthly garbage pickup meant overflowing trash piles in Saskatoon's "incinerator districts."

Photo: Archives of Saskatchewan – StarPhoenix Collection – S-SP-B27966-1

Den Designs | Instagram Handle: @dendesigns_yxe
Founder Erin Holm's beloved one-eyed, rescue pooch Betty White admires one of her creations - a Saskatoon wood transfer print.



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JULIE BARNES

We've all heard the phrase "vote with your wallet." When we support local businesses, more of our money stays in the community and those small businesses can continue to grow and thrive.

And it's thriving local shops

and successful artisans that help shape Saskatoon's culture and identity, says Brant Rumpel, owner of Joyne Marketplace on Broadway. "This is how people see the city on a global stage," he says.

Brant himself is a veritable

"shop local ambassador." He opened Joyne last year to create a space for local craftspeople to sell their work—without the overhead of securing their own storefront.

Brant offered his insider's perspective on the local artisan

scene, and made suggestions for bringing the work of talented craftspeople into Saskatoon homes.

Getting Social

"Instagram is a great place to start" when it comes to

finding local makers,” says Brant. “Most people who do these things have an Instagram account. It’s very visual—they’re craftspeople and they take pictures of their work.” He shared a few hashtags that come in handy for sourcing local artisans (see sidebar).

Accessible Art

Brant’s favourite place to find local artwork is the University of Saskatchewan’s annual student art sale at the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery. It’s scheduled for December 7 this year.

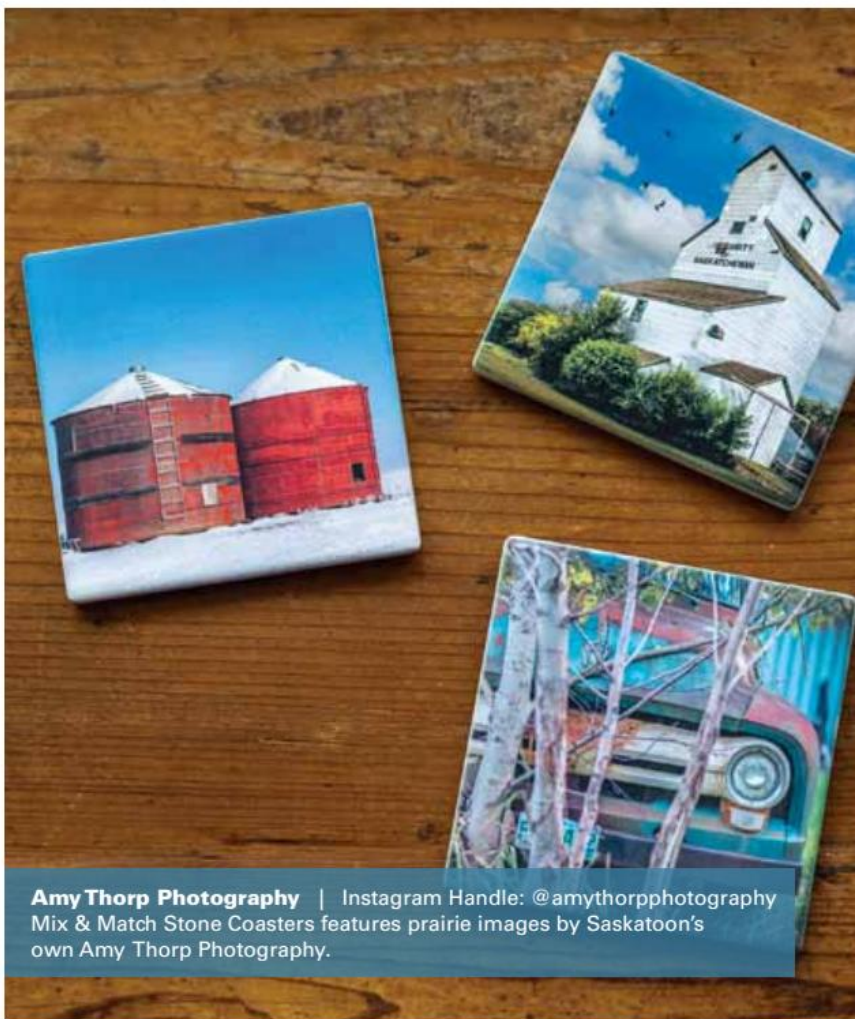
“Fine art students put out their work for sale so you can get some one-of-a-kind pieces that are not too expensive. They’re similarly priced ➤



Prairieknotco | Instagram Handle: @prairieknotco
Created by Janet Foth, these handwoven pillows made from wool, cotton and bamboo, with fabric backing and zipper.



Innsaei Designs | Instagram Handle: @innsaeidesigns
A rose quartz is paired with a handmade amethyst tree inside Balinese hand-blown glass and mounted on teak wood.



Amy Thorp Photography | Instagram Handle: @amythorpphotography
Mix & Match Stone Coasters features prairie images by Saskatoon’s own Amy Thorp Photography.



Saskatchcushion | Instagram Handle: @Saskatchcushion
These province-shaped cushions put your hometown on the map.

Photo: The Salt + Purpose Collective

TO MARKET, TO MARKET...

Saskatoon plays host to several markets and fairs that offer handmade goods for the home, including:

Flock & Gather Craft Collective
(@flockandgather on Instagram for dates)

Broadway Street Fair, September 8, 2018

Curated, September 9, 2018 at TCU Place
(@bycurated)

Sundog Arts & Entertainment Faire, November 30–
December 2, 2018 at Sasktel Centre (@sundogarts)

Launch (@launchyx)

Remix (@remixshowandsale)

Hashtags for Sourcing Handmade

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#yxemakers
#saskatoonmakers
#handmadeyx
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#supportlocalyx
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#yxarts
#shopsmallyx
#shopyx
#yxevintage



Little PotsYXE | Instagram Handle: @littlepotsyx
Pots adorned with inspirational/humorous puns, painted and stamped by hand, are paired with selected plants.

to buying a reproduction or print at a big-box store, but you get an original piece that supports a new art student," he says.

Another tip for finding local art: next time you're chowing down on a cruffin at Little Bird Patisserie, look up at the vibrant paintings that adorn the walls. The café showcases the work of local artists, with 100 per cent of the sales going directly to the creators. Other restaurants and cafés in the city that showcase local talent—from photographers to painters to illustrators—include Nosh, City Perks, Museo and Calories.

There are also several galleries and storefronts that sell the work of Saskatoon artists, such as the Saskatchewan Craft Council, Handmade House, SCYAP Art Gallery, SaskMade Marketplace, The Better Good, Hen and Chick Studios, Wanuskewin Gift Shop and Remai Modern's Art & Design Store. Hardpressed sells striking Sask-themed posters that are hand-printed in their 20th Street studio space.

Finding Furniture

Brant admires the mid-century modern vintage pieces a Saskatoon-based company

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Quilt Designs in the Yard | Instagram Handle: @quiltdesignsintheyard
These metal art tiles add a touch of whimsy to your home and garden.



Beyond The Looking Glass Gems
Instagram Handle: @BeyondTheLookingGlassGems
Crystal Grids are not only beautiful art, they are also meant to help balance your home's energy.

called Junque Haus promotes through their Instagram account (@junquehaus).

The owner, Cindy McCoy, is "doing something really neat where she'll take a chair and recover it with Pendleton fabric so it looks really

stunning," he says. In addition to Instagram, Junque Haus' upcycled furniture can be found at the Wanuskewin Gift Shop.

Another favourite furniture designer of Brant's is Rooted (@rootedsk), which is run

by a local couple, Steven and Orisha Schroeder. "The pair of them started making really nice coffee tables and wall hangings that are good, quality pieces.

They are often Saskatoon or Saskatchewan-themed."

Brant says the company's ethos is to "inspire people to be unique but also stay true to their roots."

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Monique Art | Instagram Handle: @moniquesart

"The touching through handwriting, pen and paper across a distance, the effort to write, enclose a letter and mail it makes it a cherished object, a special gift, to be held with a type of reverence."



pottery or macramé, there's a good chance someone in Saskatoon creates something to suit your personal taste.

"There are a few weavers in the city who are really good," says Brant. "They'll make woven throw pillows or wall hangings. Those pieces look really nice and the maker can match the style of your home."

Brant likes to decorate his own home with pieces that tell stories. "I can look at them and remember where I found it, how I got it, or who I was with. It makes a home more comforting and meaningful when you're surrounded by pieces with a story."

Sometimes, there's a compelling story behind the company itself, says Brant. He points to Erin Holm, the founder of Den Designs (@dendesigns_yxe).

"She'll take photography and transfer it onto locally sourced wood. She does a lot of custom work so you could get family photos or pictures of your cabin or summer

vacation transferred onto wood."

Erin's father, Dennis, died of cancer in 2016. She named her business after him.

"In his memory, she started using his tools and started this business," he says. Erin donates 10 per cent of all her sales to cancer lodges across Western Canada. Her father stayed at a cancer lodge during his treatment.

"It's a sad story, but that's her motivation for starting her business," says Brant.

Custom Commissions

Commissioning custom work also becomes an option when you shop local, says Brant. "If you find a crafts-person you like, send them a message. People are more than happy to work with you and get you a piece you can be proud of. And now you have this wonderful story of meeting the vendor, talking to them and getting this piece custom made."

So, grab your wallet ➤

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www.sundoghandcraftfaire.com



Painting: "Collective Memories", Acrylic on Canvas, 36 x 72" by Monique Martin

chickskiPRESS | Instagram Handle: @chickskipress
These illustrations by Cadace Chickowski are sure to bring the beauty of the prairies into your home.



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and use it to support a local artisan. You'll be casting a vote for a vibrant cultural scene, for local jobs and entrepreneurs, and for more of your money to stay in Saskatoon—and you may even come out of it with a story to tell. (i)

Julie Barnes

Images in this article were selected from submissions in response to 'Call for Photos' posts on our social media channels.



Rooted | Instagram Handle: @rootedsk
 ▲ Prairie River coffee table with walnut base and spalted maple top.
 ► City of Saskatoon coffee table on walnut.

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PHASE 3

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